

Tab F

CHRONOLOGY OF SOVIET ARMS AID TO CUBA

I. SAMs and Coastal Missiles

1. The Central Intelligence Agency suspected that the Soviet arms shipments to Cuba included the supply of defensive missiles in early August when it was noted that Soviet shipping had greatly increased over previous levels. This was in the Daily Economic Highlights and in the Current Intelligence Weekly Review of 10 August. Our reported suspicion was based largely on the fact that the Soviet activity in Cuba was not following the overt patterns previously established in other non-bloc countries which received Soviet arms aid. By mid-August refugee reporting from Opalacka and clandestine reporting by JMWAVE was providing evidence that SAM sites were indeed being constructed in Cuba by the USSR. This was reported to the Watch Committee and published in the Current Intelligence Weekly Review of August 24.

2. On 31 August we received confirmation from the National Photographic Interpretation Center that at least eight SAM sites were being constructed in Cuba.

II. MRBMs and IRBMs

3. Beginning with 21 September we began to receive reports from Opalacka and JMWAVE of missile sightings with more accurate detail than that contained in previous reports. The areas concerned were placed on the COMOR target list. Although for over a year OO and DDP sources had reported many sightings of objects alleged to be long-range missiles supplied by the USSR, the vast majority of these reports had been proven false by checking them against photographic evidence. Those that could not be proved false could not be confirmed from any other source.

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4. MRBM and IRBM sites were confirmed by the National Photographic Interpretation Center on 16 October (14 October missions).

III. IL-28 Jet Light Bombers

5. We first suspected that the USSR might supply these bombers in September when the unique nature of the Soviet arms buildup in Cuba became clear. This was reflected in SNIE 85-3-62. The first evidence that the USSR was supplying IL-28 aircraft came in early October from a sighting report of very large crates on a Soviet merchant ship destined for Cuba.

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Further confirmation was received when the National Photographic Interpretation Center reported the presence of three aircraft at San Julian Airfield on 17 October.

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